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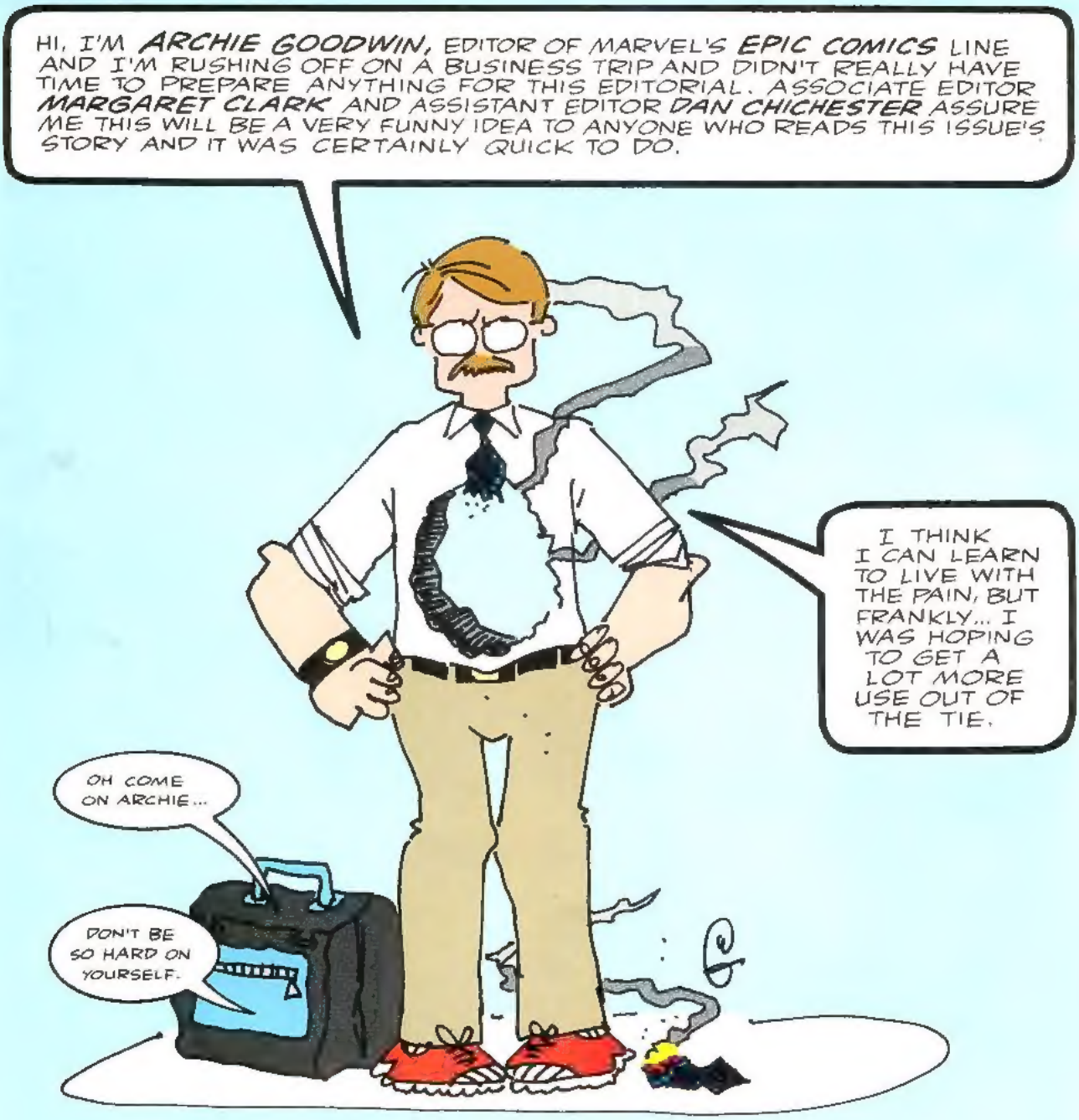
HI, I'M ARCHIE GOODWIN, EDITOR OF MARVEL'S EPIC COMICS LINE AND I'M RUSHING OFF ON A BUSINESS TRIP AND DIDN'T REALLY HAVE TIME TO PREPARE ANYTHING FOR THIS EDITORIAL. ASSOCIATE EDITOR MARGARET CLARK AND ASSISTANT EDITOR DAN CHICHESTER ASSURE ME THIS WILL BE A VERY FUNNY IDEA TO ANYONE WHO READS THIS ISSUE'S STORY AND IT WAS CERTAINLY QUICK TO DO.
I THINK I CAN LEARN TO LIVE WITH THE PAIN, BUT FRANKLY... I WAS HOPING TO GET A LOT MORE USE OUT OF THE TIE.
OH COME ON ARCHIE...
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.

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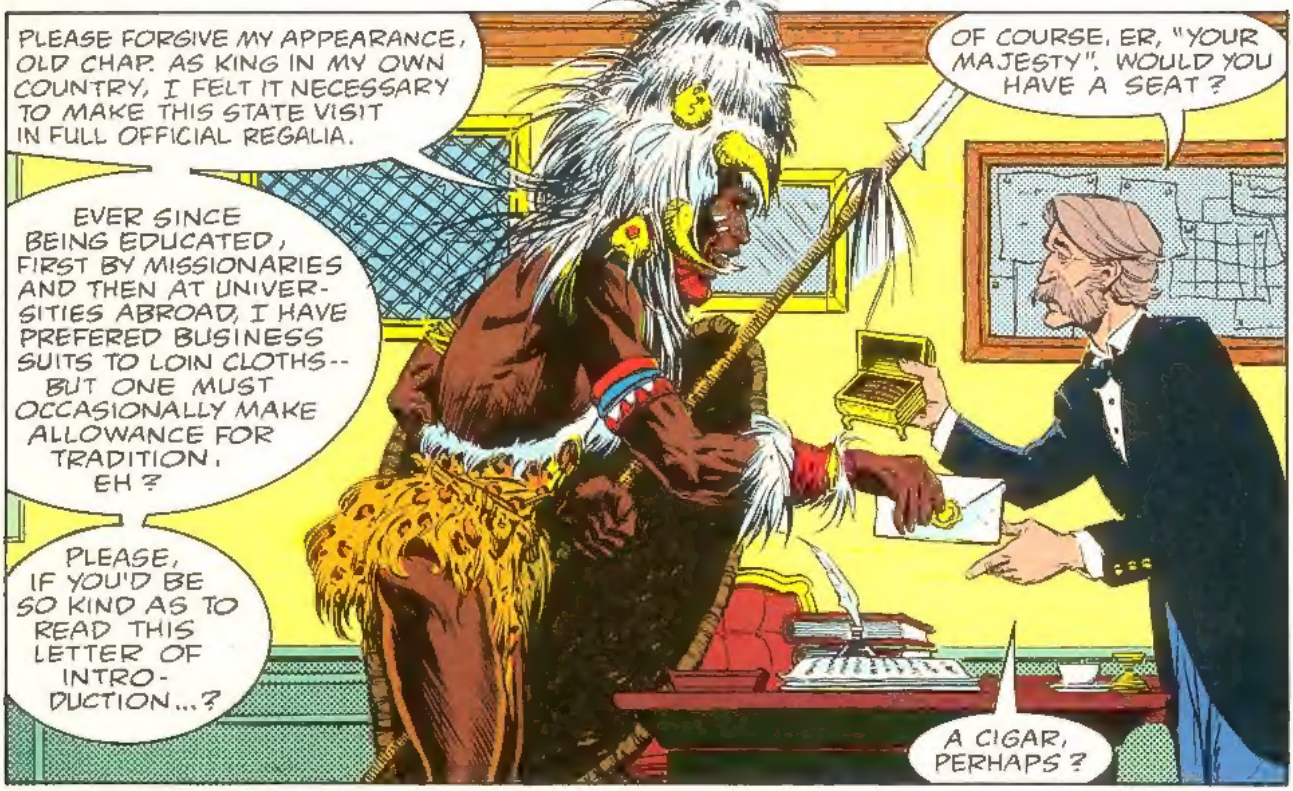
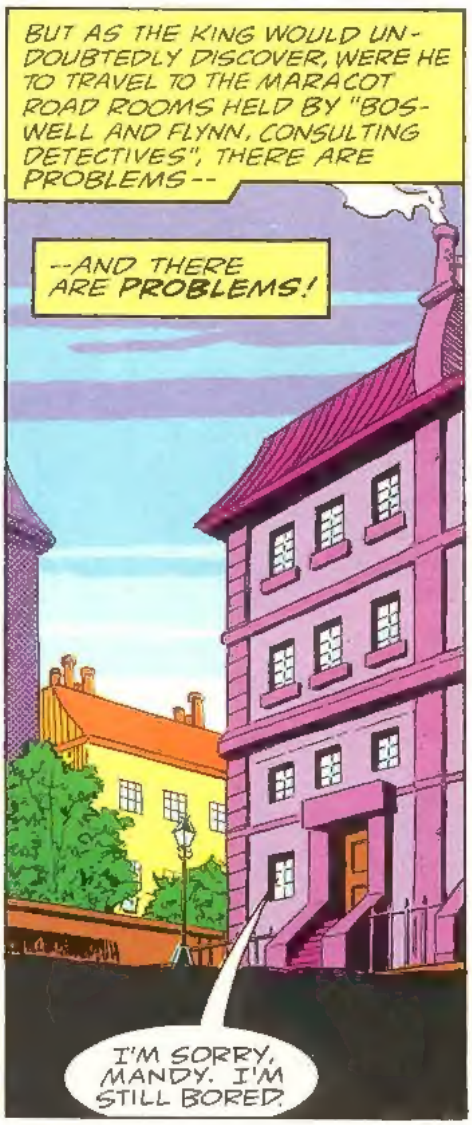
EPIC COMICS
The BOZZ CHRONICLES
BOZZ 5
SEPTEMBER 1986
$1.50
$1.75 CANADA
MARVEL

THE CLATTER OF IVORY ORNAMENTS FADES SOFTLY, LEAVING SILENCE TO FILL THE SCOTLAND YARD OFFICE OF INSPECTOR COLIN FITZROY. SILENCE, AND A REGAL AIR WORTHY OF QUEEN VICTORIA HERSELF, ON THIS FATEFUL DAY WHEN LONDON IS TO BECOME...

THE COBBLESTONE JUNGLE


PLEASE FORGIVE MY APPEARANCE, OLD CHAP. AS KING IN MY OWN COUNTRY, I FELT IT NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS STATE VISIT IN FULL OFFICIAL REGALIA.
OF COURSE, ER, "YOUR MAJESTY". WOULD YOU HAVE A SEAT?
EVER SINCE BEING EDUCATED, FIRST BY MISSIONARIES AND THEN AT UNIVERSITIES ABROAD, I HAVE PREFERED BUSINESS SUITS TO LOIN CLOTHS-- BUT ONE MUST OCCASIONALLY MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR TRADITION. EH?
PLEASE, IF YOU'D BE SO KIND AS TO READ THIS LETTER OF INTRODUCTION...?
A CIGAR, PERHAPS?

MMM, EXCELLENT BLEND. VIRGINIA? I THOUGHT AS MUCH. I GREW QUITE FOND OF THIS PARTICULAR VICE AT OXFORD.
BUT TO BUSINESS. IF YOU'LL READ THAT LETTER, DEAR FELLOW, YOU'LL FIND THAT I WAS SENT HERE BY YOUR FOREIGN OFFICE. FOR YOU SEE, I'M AFRAID THAT MY COUNTRY, A SMALL BRITISH CROWN COLONY IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA, HAS A BIT OF A, SHALL WE SAY...
...PROBLEM?
MINISTRY OF TRADE

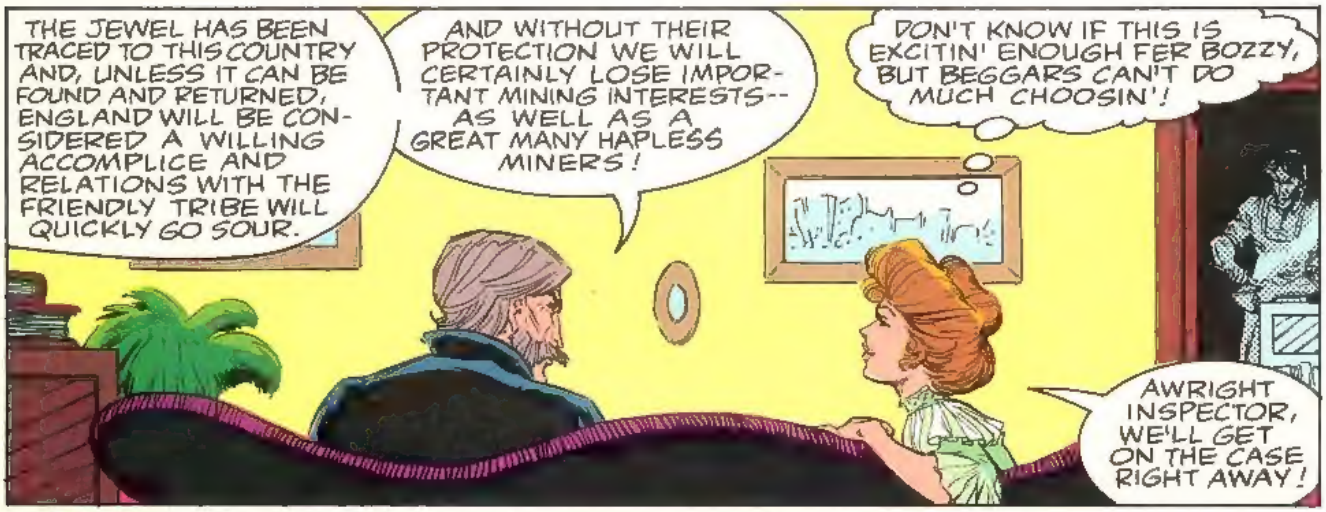

BUT AS THE KING WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DISCOVER, WERE HE TO TRAVEL TO THE MARACOT ROAD ROOMS HELD BY "BOSWELL AND FLYNN, CONSULTING DETECTIVES", THERE ARE PROBLEMS--
--AND THERE ARE PROBLEMS!
I'M SORRY, MANDY. I'M STILL BORED.

GOR, BOZZY, JUST LOOKIT ALL THIS STUFF I BOUGHT YA! ENOUGH TA KEEP A SCHOOLYARD FULL O' BRATS BUSY FER MONTHS!
JUST WOT THE 'ELL DO FOLKS ON YER PLANET DO WHEN THEY'RE BORED?
WELL, SOMETIMES WE STUDY ASTRAL JUNCTURES. OR PERHAPS WE MIGHT ENGAGE IN CELEBRATIONS OF VERNAL BURGEONING. AND OCCASIONALLY, IF THE MOOD STRIKES US--
--WE NRGLE.
YA... WOT?!
NRGLING IS A PHYSICAL EXPRESSION OF AFFECTION BETWEEN TWO BEINGS OF MY SPECIES WHO CARE A GREAT DEAL FOR ONE ANOTHER.
OH, YEAH?
THEN MAYBE WE OUGHTS TA TRY A BIT O' THIS NRGLIN' STUFF OURSELVES, EH?
I'M AFRAID THAT MIGHT PROVE FRUSTRATING FOR YOU, MANDY. YOU SEE--
--THE CULMINATING PROCEDURES REQUIRE A TAIL.

PLEASE, MANDY, DON'T BE SAD. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. AFTER ALL--
--YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN.
BOZZY, THAT WAS NOT WOT I NEEDED TA 'EAR RIGHT NOW!
LOOK, WHYN'T YA JUST GO UP-STAIRS AN' PUT SOME CLOTHES ON. I KNOW THEY DON'T WEAR NONE WHERE YA COME FROM, BUT WE'RE KINDA USED TO 'EM 'ERE.
BESIDES, THAT'LL 'ELP ME KEEP ME MIND OFF NRGLIN'!
EH? SALEM, WOULD YOU--?
SHORE THING, MANDY! I'LL GET IT!
NOK NOK
HOWDY, INSPECTOR FITZROY! PUT 'ER THERE, PAL!
THANK YOU, HAWKSHAW. I'LL KEEP MY HAT, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

WHY, THAT BLUEBLOODED POLECAT! I DUNNO IF HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' 'GAINST AMERICANS, OR JUST HATES FURRINERS IN GEN'RAL!
BUT SOME DAY I'M GONNA KICK HIS PRISSY BEE-HIND ALL THE WAY TA TULSA AN' BACK!
SORRY 'BOUT ALL THE GEW GAWS, INSPECTOR. ME, ER, LITTLE COUSIN IS VISITIN' FROM KENSINGTON.
I, UH, SEE.
FIVE YEARS OLD.
BORES EASY.
ACTUALLY, MISS FLYNN, I'M NOT HERE SO MUCH ON A SOCIAL CALL AS I AM IN MY OFFICIAL CAPACITY. YOUR AGENCY HAS GAINED QUITE A REPUTATION FOR SUCCESS, AND THE YARD WOULD LIKE TO ENLIST YOUR AID IN A CERTAIN MATTER REQUIRING SOME SUBTLETY.
OH?
YES, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS BECOME INVOLVED IN A SOMEWHAT STICKY SITUATION CONCERNING BRITISH INTERESTS IN AFRICA, AT THE SITE OF SOME RATHER LUCRATIVE DIAMOND MINES.
D... DIAMONDS?
I'M ALL EARS.

WELL, THE NATIVES IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS ARE HOSTILE TO OUTSIDERS, BUT THE LOCAL TRIBE OPERATES UNDER AN ODD RELIGIOUS EDICT--
--IT SEEMS THAT IN THE FAR PAST THEIR GODS ORDERED THAT THEY SHOULD BE FRIENDLY TO PALE-SKINNED VISITORS.
THUS, THEY PROTECT OUR MINERS FROM HARM, AND EVERYONE IS HAPPY. AT LEAST THEY WERE UNTIL SOME WEEKS AGO WHEN A SACRED STONE WAS STOLEN FROM THEIR WITCH DOCTOR-- AN OBJECT OF GREAT POWER GIVEN TO THEM BY THE GODS THEMSELVES!
PAGAN MUMBO-JUMBO, OF COURSE, BUT IT HAS PLACED BRITAIN IN SOMETHING OF AN AWKWARD POSITION.


THE JEWEL HAS BEEN TRACED TO THIS COUNTRY AND, UNLESS IT CAN BE FOUND AND RETURNED, ENGLAND WILL BE CONSIDERED A WILLING ACCOMPLICE AND RELATIONS WITH THE FRIENDLY TRIBE WILL QUICKLY GO SOUR.
AND WITHOUT THEIR PROTECTION WE WILL CERTAINLY LOSE IMPORTANT MINING INTERESTS-- AS WELL AS A GREAT MANY HAPLESS MINERS!
DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS EXCITIN' ENOUGH FER BOZZY, BUT BEGGARS CAN'T DO MUCH CHOOSIN'!
AWRIGHT INSPECTOR, WE'LL GET ON THE CASE RIGHT AWAY!

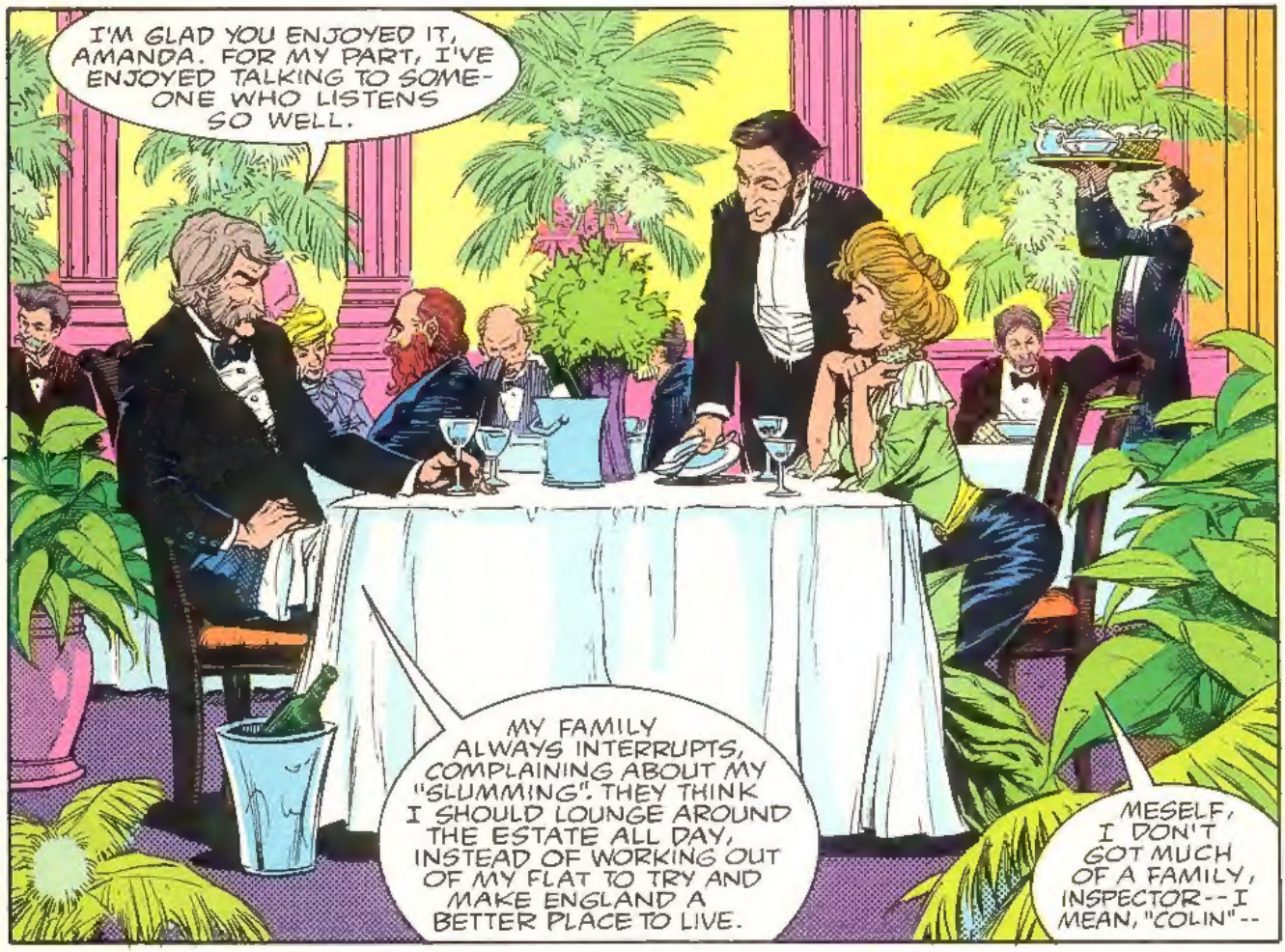
JUST HOLD ON A MINUTE! WE CAN'T START NOTHIN' NOW-- DINNER'S ALMOST DONE! I'M FIXIN' CHILI PEPPERS EL DIABLO AN' RED ONION CHEWIES!
I RECKON I COULD SET ANOTHER PLATE FOR THE INSPECTOR :SNIFF: IF I HAFTA.

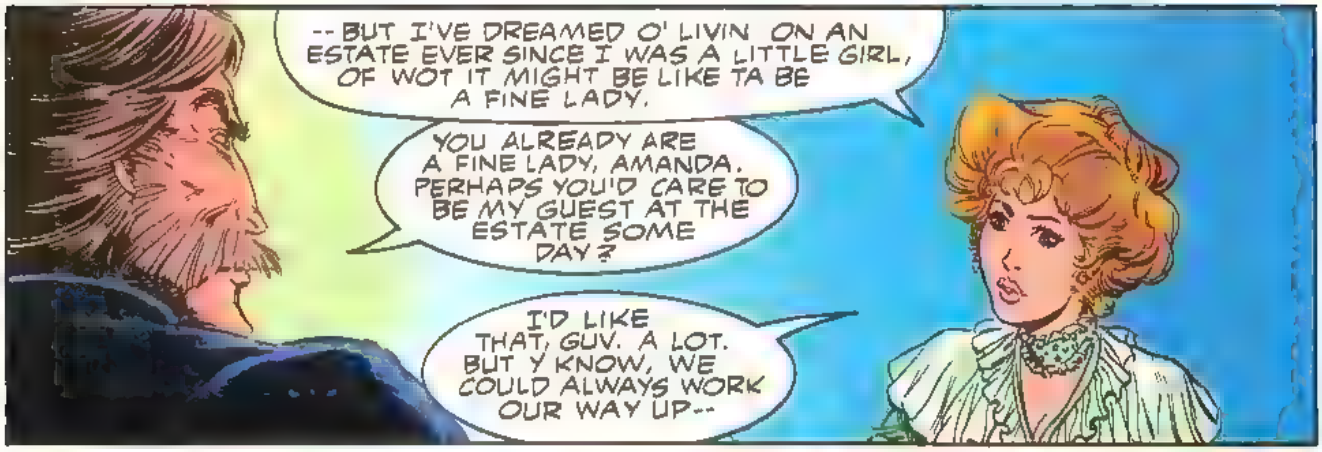
OH. :SIGH: 'OW NICE.
IS THERE A PROBLEM, MISS FLYNN?
WELL, SALEM'S THE SWEETEST BLOKE YA'D EVER WANT TA MEET--
--BUT 'IS COOKIN' COULD MELT THE BARNACLES OFF A SHIP'S HULL.

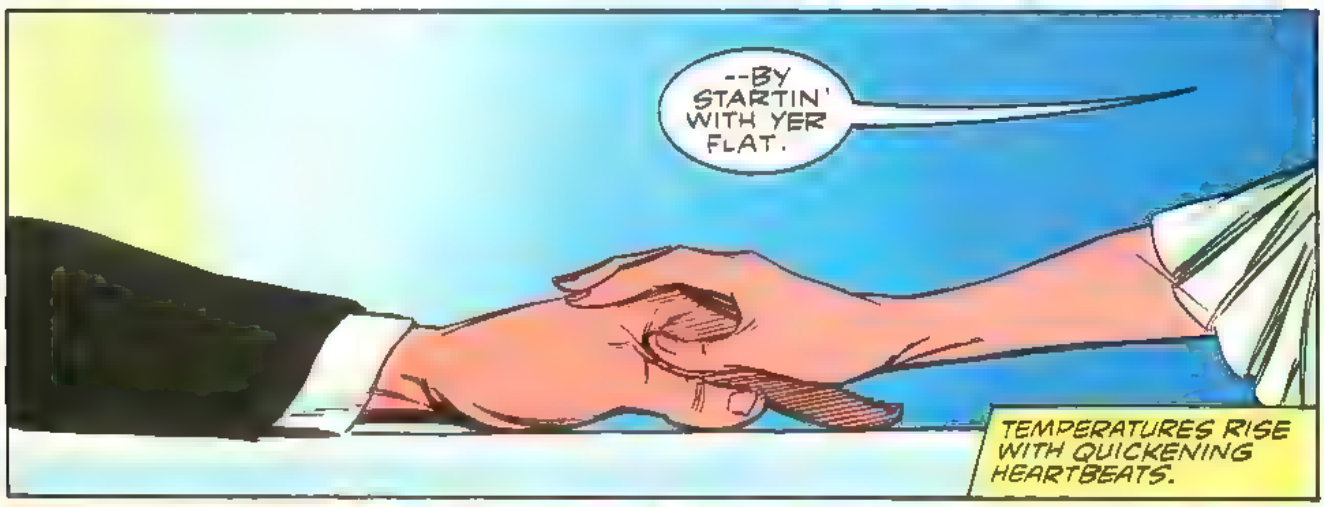
IN THAT CASE, MY DEAR, MIGHT I MAKE A SUGGESTION?
HMMM.
YA MIGHT.
AND, SHORTLY...
COME AN' GET IT! C'MON, Y'ALL, 'FORE I THROW IT TA THE--HUH?
THEY'RE GONE!
I BELIEVE I SAW MANDY LEAVING WITH THAT RATHER FORMAL POLICEMAN A FEW MOMENTS AGO, SALEM.
TING LING LING
DADBURN IT! THE FEMALE O' THE SPECIES IS ALWAYS GETTIN' SWEPT OFF 'ER FEET TOO EASY! NOW I'LL HAFTA EAT BY MY LONESOME!
WOULD IT MAKE YOU HAPPY IF I JOIN-ED YOU, SALEM?
AW, SUIT YUHSELF. HMPH!
MY. WHAT AN INTERESTING CONCOCTION OF ORGANIC TUBERS AND AROMATIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTS.
MIGHT I HAVE A FEW PENNIES, SALEM?
WHAT?! YUH MEAN I GOTTA PAY YUH TA EAT MUH GRUB?!
OH, NO--

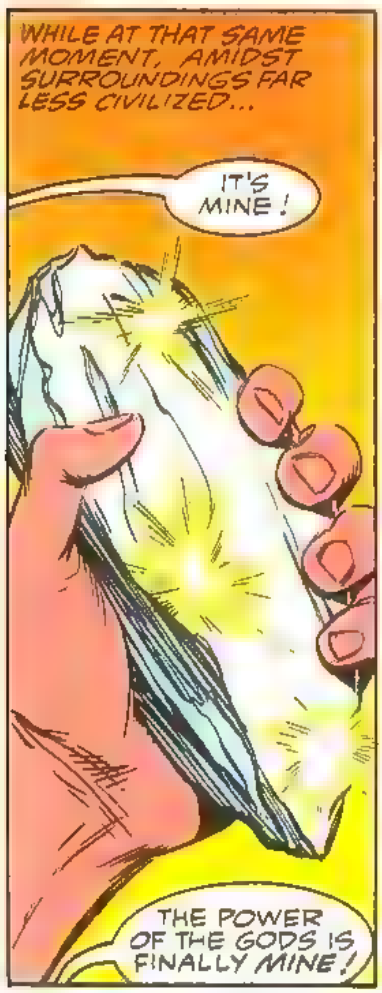
--IT JUST NEEDS A LITTLE SEASONING, THAT'S ALL!
LORDY! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE'S SAID THAT ABOUT MY COOKIN'!!
KRITCH KRITCH
?!

AND SOME TIME LATER AT AN EXCLUSIVE BLUE RIBBON RESTAURANT...
CAFE ROYAL
GOR! WOT A FEED!


I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT, AMANDA. FOR MY PART, I'VE ENJOYED TALKING TO SOMEONE WHO LISTENS SO WELL.
MY FAMILY ALWAYS INTERRUPTS, COMPLAINING ABOUT MY "SLUMMING". THEY THINK I SHOULD LOUNGE AROUND THE ESTATE ALL DAY, INSTEAD OF WORKING OUT OF MY FLAT TO TRY AND MAKE ENGLAND A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.
MESELF, I DON'T GOT MUCH OF A FAMILY, INSPECTOR--I MEAN, "COLIN"--


-- BUT I'VE DREAMED O' LIVIN ON AN ESTATE EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, OF WOT IT MIGHT BE LIKE TA BE A FINE LADY.
YOU ALREADY ARE A FINE LADY, AMANDA. PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO BE MY GUEST AT THE ESTATE SOME DAY?
I'D LIKE THAT, GUV. A LOT. BUT Y KNOW, WE COULD ALWAYS WORK OUR WAY UP--


--BY STARTIN' WITH YER FLAT.
TEMPERATURES RISE WITH QUICKENING HEARTBEATS.


WHILE AT THAT SAME MOMENT, AMIDST SURROUNDINGS FAR LESS CIVILIZED...
IT'S MINE!
THE POWER OF THE GODS IS FINALLY MINE!

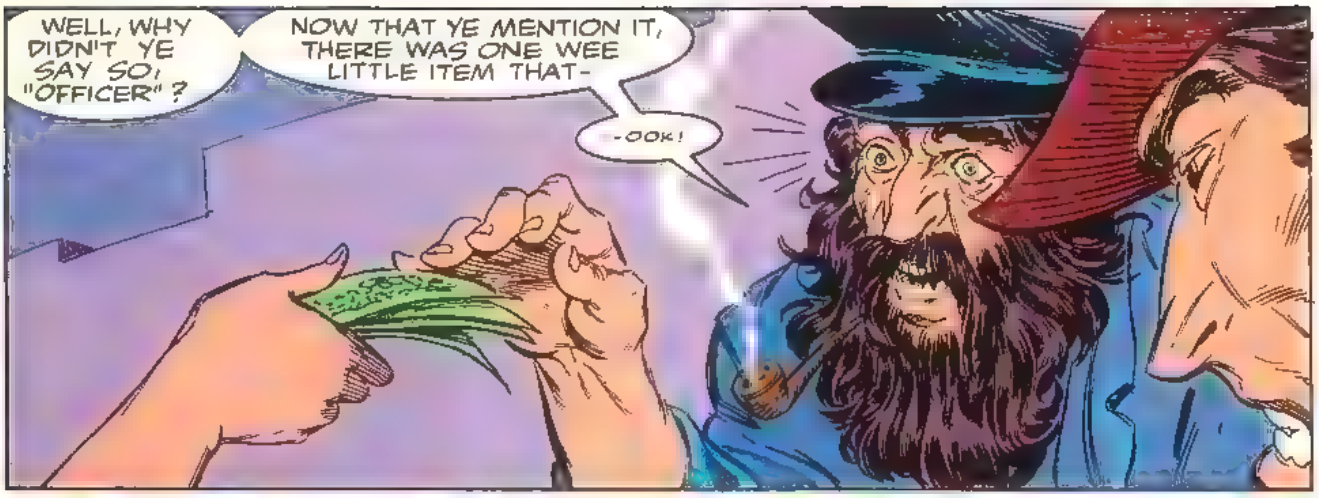
THIS SACRED STONE IS THE KEY! MY PLAN IS READY FOR COMPLETION AT LAST!
COLONEL ALEX! A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF YOUR WATCHERS!

WHAT? DRINKING AGAIN? AND BABBLING LIKE A BROKEN FAUCET! HE HAS TO BE STOPPED BEFORE HIS PRATTLING REACHES THE WRONG EARS!
NOTHING MUST STAND IN MY WAY! NOTHING MUST STOP ME FROM DOING TO ENGLAND--
--WHAT ENGLAND HAS DONE TO ME!
KABRASH
DAWN. MORNING TIPTOES BACK INTO LONDONTOWN, QUIET AND TIMID, ALMOST UNNOTICED
TOO
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME!
I BEEN UP HALF THE GOLDURNED NIGHT, AN' I'M GONNA GET ME SOME ANSWERS!
MANDY!
AMANDA FLYNN!
DADBLAST IT GAL, WHERE YUH BEEN ALL NIGHT?
I BEEN WORRIED HALF OUTTA MUH MIND!
I ALMOST CALLED THE POLICE!
YUH CAN'T JUST UP AN' TAKE OFF LIKE--

I'M A GROWED WOMAN, SALEM! I CAN TAKE CARE O' MESELF! AN' IF YA CAN'T LIVE WITH THAT--
--THEN YA CAN BLOODY WELL LIVE SOMEWHERE ELSE!
HUH?! W-W-WAIT A MINUTE--!
I-I DIDN'T MEAN NUTHIN'! I-I WAS JUST WORRIED 'BOUT YUH, THAT'S ALL!
I...I KNOW, SALEM. AN' I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST THAT I'VE GOT USETA NOT ANSWERIN' TA NOBODY.
I GREW UP WITHOUT NO BIG BROTHER--AN' I CAN GET ALONG FINE WITHOUT ONE NOW.
LOOK, LET'S JUST FERGET IT, AWRIGHT? NO 'ARM DONE, SO LONG'S IT DON'T 'APPEN AGA!-- EH?
W-WOT'S BOZZY DOIN' 'EADIN' FER THE BACK YARD--
--WITH A CAN O' KEROSENE?! BOZZY!
OH, GOOD MORNING, MANDY
I HAD NOTHING TO DO, SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT MAKE MYSELF USEFUL BY SEEING THAT THE SMUDGE POTS IN THE GARDEN WERE FULL.
OH, YEAH? YA GONNA FILL 'EM WITH MATCHES, TOO?

I THOUGHT I SHOULD KEEP THEM HANDY IN CASE OF A SUDDEN FROST.
UH HUH.
AMAZIN' WOT EXCUSES FOLKS'LL USE WHEN THEY RE THINKIN' O' ENDIN' IT ALL--'SPECIALLY WHEN THEIR ONLY REASON IS TEDIUM!
DON'T WORRY, BOZZY, YA WON'T BE BORED LONG- WE GOT US A NEW CASE!
IN FACT, I SET THE WHEELS O' THE INVESTIGATION TA RUNNIN' THIS MORNIN'.
ON ME WAY 'OME --EH, SALEM?
UHHHH... RIGHT
AND SO, AFTER A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND SCENE, ON THE DOCKS OF THE MIGHTY THAMES RIVER...
'ERE YA GO, OLLIE.
THANKS, M'UM! IT WAS A PLEASURE DOIN' BUSINESS WITH YA AGAIN!

OLLIE'S THE SHARPEST KID IN THE STREETS. I ASKED 'IM TA NOSE AROUND A BIT, TA LOOK FER ANYTHIN' UNUSUAL 'BOUT BOATS COMIN' IN FROM AFERKA.
'E SAID A CERTAIN CAP'N TEAGUE WAS IN 'IS CUPS LAST NIGHT, BRAGGIN' 'BOUT MAKIN' BIG MONEY ON SOMETHIN' 'E SMUGGLED THROUGH ON 'IS LAST TRIP 'ROUND THE CAPE!
AN' ACCORDIN' TA OLLIE'S REPORT, THAT'S THE BLOKE WE'RE LOOKIN' FER!
ANGUS TEAGUE? I'M FLYNN, OFFICE O' CUSTOMS INQUIRY. GOT SOME QUESTIONS TA ASK.
YE DON'T LOOK LIKE NO CUSTOMS INSPECTOR, LASS!
YE LOOK LIKE A SNOOP!
AN' YORE GONNA LOOK FOR THAT BLADE COMIN' OUTTA YER BACKSIDE IF YUH DON'T--
EASY, SALEM
YA DIDN'T GIMME A CHANCE TA SHOW THE GENT ME IDENTIFICATION!
EH? TWENTY POUNDS?


WELL, WHY DIDN'T YE SAY SO, "OFFICER"?
NOW THAT YE MENTION IT, THERE WAS ONE WEE LITTLE ITEM THAT-
-OOK!

BLIMEY!
SOMEONE'S RUNNIN' AWAY! LOOKS LIKE HE'S CARRYIN' A WEAPON!
I BET THE SONOVA-BITCH SHOT TEAGUE!

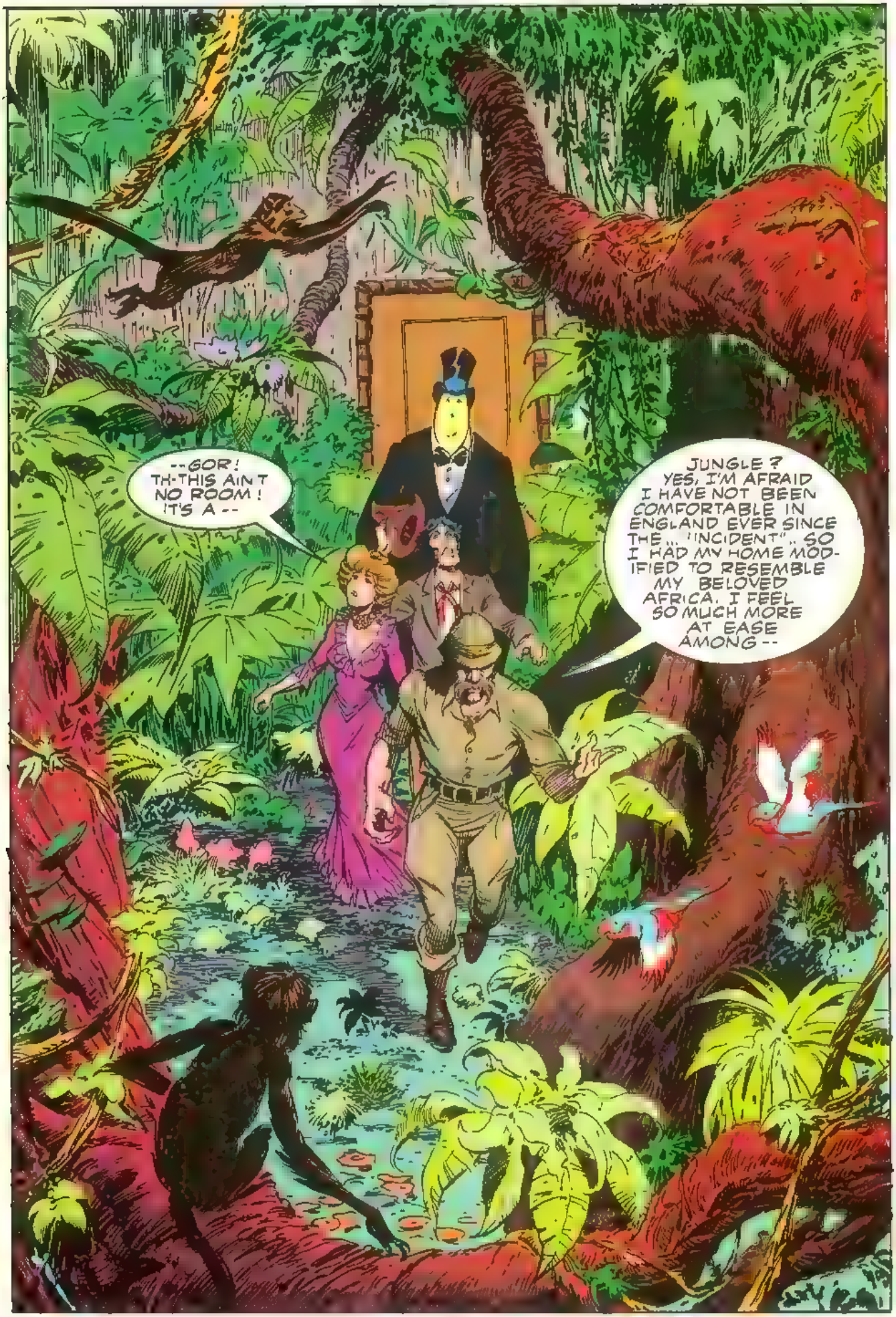
HE'S GETTIN' INTA THAT CARRIAGE! BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TA CATCH UP BEFORE--
I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND THAT, SALEM.

I SENSE A SURGE OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY WITHIN THE VEHICLE. IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THAT ENERGY IS ABOUT TO BE--

"--RELEASED!"
LOOK OUT!
SZZZ-ZZZT
ZZZ-ZAMP
DADBURN IT! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY! AN' ALL BECAUSE I WAS SPOOKED BY SOME FANCY-PANTS WITH A MAG C LANTERN!
TH-THAT WEREN'T NO LANTERN, SALEM! LOOK!
WULL, AH'LL BE...!
M-MAYBE WE OUGHTS TA TURN THIS ONE BACK OVER TA SCOTLAND YARD! EH, BOZZY?
OH, NO, MANDY. THINGS ARE JUST BEGINNING TO GET INTER-ESTING.
DAMN. I KNEW 'E'D SAY THAT.

AND LATER, AS EVENING AND DEPRESSION SETTLE IN EQUAL PARTS OVER MARACOT ROAD...
BLAST!
WE'RE STYMIED, IS WOT WE ARE! OUR ONLY LEAD -- CAP'N TEAGUE -- GETS 'ISSELF KILT BY A BLOODY AFERKAN BLOWDART, AN' WOT KINDA CLUE IS THAT?
IT MIGHT BE SIGNIFICANT, MANDY.
FROM TS AROMA, THE PO,SON SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MAN-UFACTURED FROM LOCAL INGREDIENTS, RATHER THAN THOSE NAT,VE TO THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.
SO WHAT? HOW'S THAT GONNA HELP US FIND WHO SHOT THE THING?
WELL, WE COULD TRY. TRACING THE POISON TO ITS SOURCE.
MAY I?
MMMM, YES. ;SMACK; A DEFINITE HERBAL PiQUANCY. A UN,QUE BLEND FOUND ONLY IN 'ROYAL HERTER'S HEAVY PURPOSE RODENT DEMISER", I DO BELIEVE.

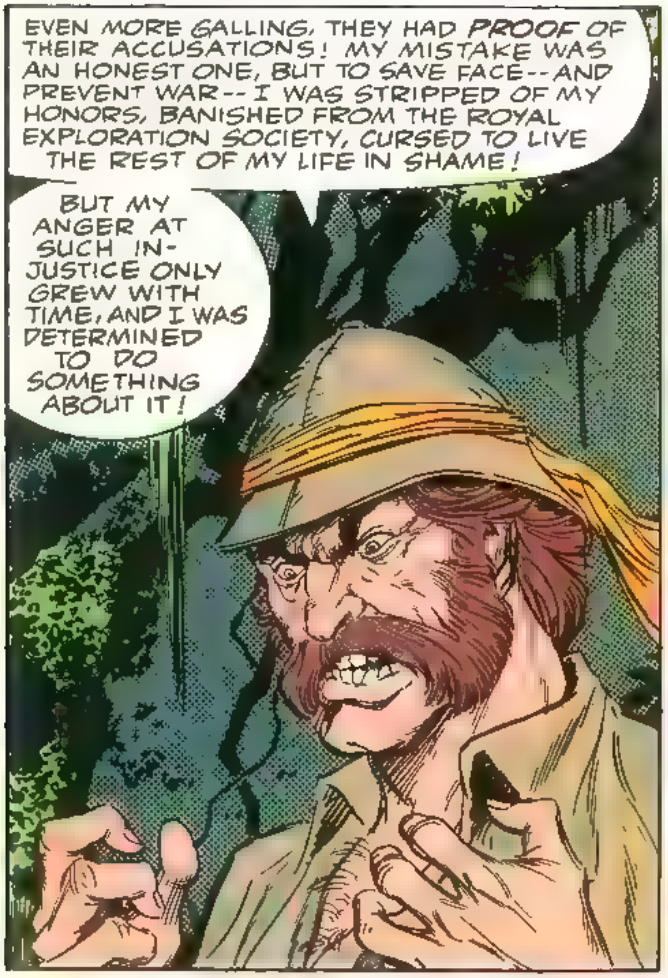
IT'S RATHER EXPENSIVE, WHICH SHOULD MAKE ITS USE RARE. PERHAPS THAT WILL FACILITATE FINDING THE CHEMIST WHO SOLD IT.
UH...
..RO T
THE SEARCH GOES SMOOTHLY. SO THAT AS FULL DARK FINALLY FOLDS ITSELF OVER LONDON'S OUTER FRINGE..
ONLY SIX FOLKS BOUGHT THAT PARTIC'LAR POISON IN THE LAST MONTH--AN' FIVE OF EM PROVED LEGIT!
TOO BAD THE LAST ONE LIVES IN A 'OUSE WOT LOOKS LIKE A MUSEUM! AH, MIGHT AS WELL KNOCK--
--AN' 'OPE THE BLIGHTER AIN'T 'OME!
HOWEVER..
GOOD EVENING THE MASTER IS EXPECTING YOU.
E... E IS?
WHAT M'TAHAY MEANS IS THAT I WAS EXPECTNG SOMEONE.
I'M COLONEL ALEXANDER CARRUTHERS. IF YOU'LL STEP THIS WAY...?
I'M FLYNN, GUVNOR, WITH THE OFFCE O' IMPORTS! I GOT SOME QUESTIONS TA ASK ABOUT--


--GOR! TH-THIS AIN'T NO ROOM! IT'S A --
JUNGLE? YES, I'M AFRAID I HAVE NOT BEEN COMFORTABLE IN ENGLAND EVER SINCE THE... "INCIDENT"... SO I HAD MY HOME MODIFIED TO RESEMBLE MY BELOVED AFRICA. I FEEL SO MUCH MORE AT EASE AMONG --

--FRIENDS!
WHAT THE--?!
BLACK AFERKANS!
WE'RE SURROUNDED!

--THEN IT WAS YOU! YOU WOT KILT CAP'N TEAGUE AT THE DOCKS!
HE HAD BECOME A LIABILITY, MADAM. HE WAS DRAWING FAR TOO MUCH ATTENTION.
YOURS WILL BE THE LAST!

FOR YOU SEE, VIRTUALLY ALL OF MY ADULT LIFE I SPENT ON THE DARK CONTINENT, EXPLORING AFRICA AND OPENING UP HER WILDERNESS FOR THE CROWN.
I WAS TO BE KNIGHTED FOR MY SERVICE TO ENGLAND. BUT THEN--
--AN ALLY ASSERTED PRIOR RIGHT TO SOME OF THE TERRITORY I HAD CLAIMED!


EVEN MORE GALLING, THEY HAD PROOF OF THEIR ACCUSATIONS! MY MISTAKE WAS AN HONEST ONE, BUT TO SAVE FACE--AND PREVENT WAR--I WAS STRIPPED OF MY HONORS, BANISHED FROM THE ROYAL EXPLORATION SOCIETY, CURSED TO LIVE THE REST OF MY LIFE IN SHAME!
BUT MY ANGER AT SUCH INJUSTICE ONLY GREW WITH TIME, AND I WAS DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

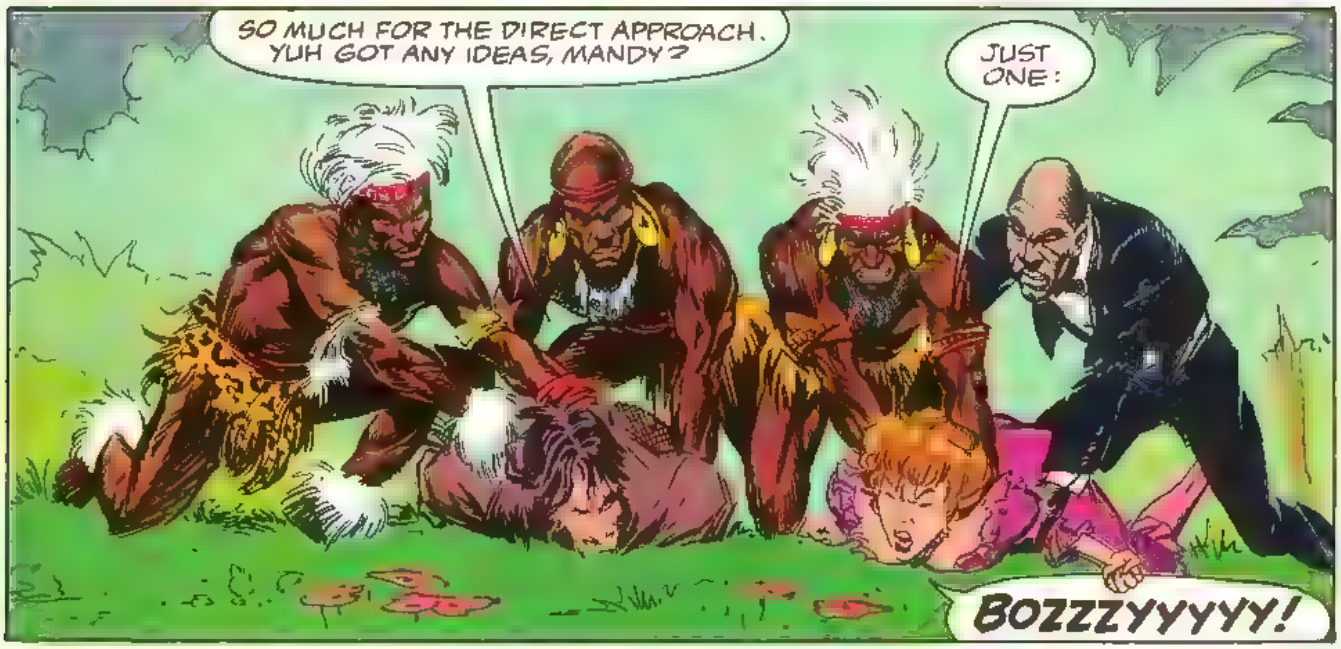
I MOUNTED ONE FINAL EXPEDITION, SEEKING OUT A LEGENDARY GEMSTONE SAID TO BE THE SOURCE OF INCREDIBLE POWER.
IT WAS THAT STONE CAPTAIN TEAGUE SMUGGLED INTO ENGLAND FOR ME.

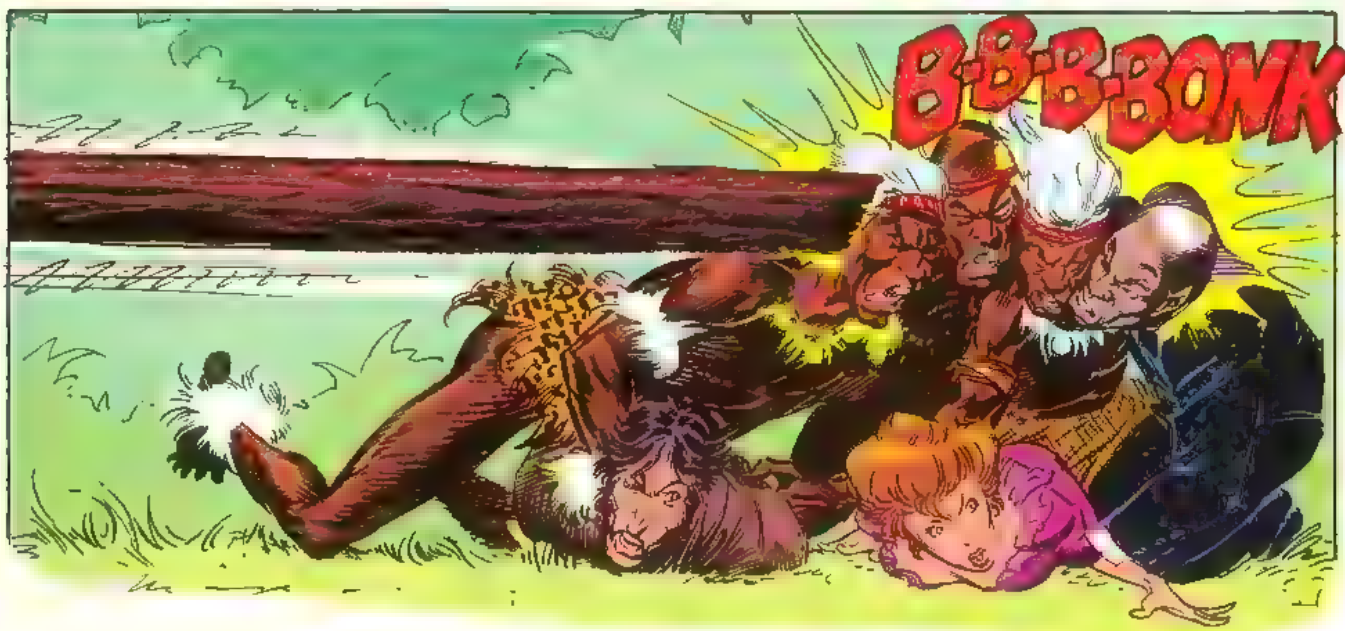
I FINANCED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MACHINE THAT WOULD RELEASE THE STONE'S MIGHT--A "LIGHT CANNON"--THE ONE THAT I USED AGAINST YOU AT THE DOCKS EARLIER TODAY!

AND NOW I WILL TAKE THAT DEVICE TO THE TOWER OF LONDON--
--AND EXACT MY FINAL REVENGE!
BLIMEY! Y-YER GONNA STEAL THE CROWN JEWELS?!

STEAL THEM? DEAR LADY, THE CROWN JEWELS ARE THE SYMBOL OF THE MIGHT AND SOLIDITY FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE. I INTEND DOING TO THEM PRECISELY WHAT ENGLAND DID TO ME:
I INTEND TO DESTROY THEM!
I DON'T CARE NOTHIN 'BOUT NO ROYAL TREASURE, BUT THAT SCALAWAG'S AWREADY KILLED ONE MAN--
--TA SAY NOTHIN' 'O TRYIN' TA KILL US! SO I'M GONNA NAIL THE BUM'S HIDE--
--AN' AIN'T NO SIDESHOW BOOGEYMEN GONNA STOP ME!
THRUB

UH, EXCEPT =URNGK= M-MAYBE THESE SIDESHOW BOOGEYMEN!
LET 'IM GO!
OW!
THWAK
L LET ME GO!


SO MUCH FOR THE DIRECT APPROACH. YUH GOT ANY IDEAS, MANDY?
JUST ONE:
BOZZZYYYYY!


B-B-B-BONK

BOZZY, YER A LUV!
YEAH! A STRONG LOVE! SO HOW 'BOUT USIN' SOME O THEM MUSCLES ON THAT IRON DOOR!
I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE WISE, SA-EM. I HEAR A FAINT HISSING FROM THE OTHER SIDE.
HISSIN'?
YES. LIKE--
P-POOM
--A FUSE!
LORDY! CARRUTHERS WENT AN' BLEW HIS-SELF UP!
WE GOTTA GET SOME DOCTORS OR SOMETHIN'! THAT LUNATIC COULD STILL BE ALIVE!
'ES MORE ALIVE THAN YA THINK, COWBOY!
LOOK!

THAT'S 'OW E'S GETTIN' TA THE TOWER! AN' THAT POINTY DEVICE MUST BE WOT E'S GONNA USE ON THE JEWELS!
BUT 'OW 'N TARNATION ARE WE SUPPOSED TA STOP THAT?
WELL THINK O' SOMETHIN'! YA 'EAR ME, BOZZY? THINK O' SOMETHI-- BOZZ?
'E'S GONE!
THEM CHARGES WEREN'T MEANT TA KILL-- THEY WAS SET TA BLOW THE ROOF OFF!
CARRUTHERS 'AD A BLINKIN' BALLOON 'ID IN 'IS AVIARY!

JUST ONE SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT TO THE REFLECTING APPARATUS, AND I'LL BE READY TO--
I DO WISH YOU'D RE-CONSIDER YOUR POSITION, COLONEL
WHAT THE--?
LORD JESUS IN HEAVEN!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, O-OR WHAT KIND OF TRICKERY YOU'RE USING--
--BUT A 44-CALIBER BALL WILL STOP ANY MAGICIAN ON EARTH--
--EH?
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU DIDN'T PULL THAT TRIGGER, SIR
WH-WHY, BLAST YOUR BLOODY--

BLAM
AGH!
MY... M-MY EYES ..!
OH, DEAR I'VE MUSSED MY FINGER.
V-VISION BLURRY! BUT I CAN STILL SEE WELL ENOUGH TO SEND YOU TO KINGDOM COME!
I'D ADVISE YOU TO BE CAREFUL WITH THAT MACHINE, COLONEL CARRUTHERS. A STRAY BEAM COULD PROVE MOST DESTRUCTIVE
SZZAMP
IF I'M CORRECT, BALLOONS LIKE YOURS GET THEIR LIFT FROM HYDROGEN GAS.
SNNAMP
SNNAMP
SNNAMP
AND HYDROGEN HAS A TENDENCY TO BE RATHER--

FOOOOSH
FWAPOWWWM
"--VOLATILE..."

LORDY BEE! THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT PIECES FALLIN' INTA THE RIVER!
YEAH, BUT PIECES O' BALLOON... O-OR PIECES O'
WHAT A PITY THAT HUMANS SO SELDOM LISTEN TO REASON.

BOZZY!
WAY TA GO, PARDNER!
THANK YOU, SALEM.
I BELIEVE I'M GOING TO NEED A NEW SUIT, MANDY.

THE TATTERED TRIO RETURNS TO MARACOT ROAD, TO LICK WOUNDS AND COUNT BLESSINGS. AND THEN, DAYS LATER...
NOK
NOK

WOT A PLEASURE, YER... AH... MAJESTY?
THE DELIGHT IS ENTIRELY MINE, MISS FLYNN. I SIMPLY HAD TO THANK PERSONALLY THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HELPING MY COUNTRY.
AND SPLENDID HELP IT WAS, AMANDA.
THE CASE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CLOSED!
THE SACRED GEMSTONE HAS BEEN RECOVERED FROM THE THAMES, AND MINING OPERATIONS SHOULD BE SECURED VERY SOO--
GHYEEAAA!
WULL, I'LL BE--!
WHAT THE DEUCE?!
BLIMEY!
G'NTAGA MATANGAY SALABA K'BO!

Y-YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE THE CHIEF! HE'S =AHEM= NOT USED TO BRITISH FOOD!
BUT THE LEGENDS! TH-THE DRAWINGS OF THE GODS! HE MUST BE WORSHIPPED--!
COME ALONG NOW. A LITTLE SCOTCH AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
HOW EMBARRASS-ING!

OH, YES. EVER SINCE I RECOGNIZED THAT SACRED CRYSTAL AS A POWER MODULE FROM AN INTERSTELLAR CRAFT -- LIKE MINE.
EVIDENTLY, OTHERS OF MY RACE HAVE BEEN ON EARTH BEFORE, AND WERE CONSIDERED GODS. AND SINCE THERE'S A CHANCE THAT SOME OF THEM MAY STILL BE ALIVE...
OH, NO! Y-YA DON'T MEAN--?
YES, MANDY--

NEXT ISSUE: **King Solomon's Spaceship!**